

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR FIELD UPGRADEABLE SWITCHES BUILT  
FROM ROUTING COMPONENTS

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for providing field upgradeable switches built from ASIC-based routing components is disclosed. A network switch contains intermediate routing components and an interface that allows the switching component to couple with a module. The module contains additional routing components and may be coupled to the network switch as a simple field operation. When the module is coupled with the network switch, the routing components of the module are communicatively coupled with the intermediate routing components of the network switch. Thus, the network switch now contains additional routing components. As a result, the addition of the module enhances the internal topology of network switch and increases its effective bisectional bandwidth.